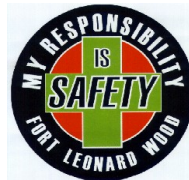




# Safety Alert 07-06

## WINTER DRIVING SAFETY



11 January, 2007

The local weather forecast for the next few days calls for severe weather, including heavy rain, high winds, snow, freezing rain, and ice. To stay safe, it is essential that we all remember the following winter driving hazards and safe driving practices.

- ▣ Have an emergency kit in your vehicle in case you are stranded.
- ▣ Be sure all windows, lights, and mirrors are completely cleared of ice and snow before driving.
- ▣ Adjust speed for road, weather, and visibility conditions.
- ▣ Avoid sudden turns, steering, stops, or accelerations. Brake gently.
- ▣ On snow or ice, allow plenty of extra space to stop.

Remember how far it takes to bring your car to a stop on dry pavement? In winter conditions, allow

at least 3 times that distance to reach a full stop and avoid skidding. This means your safe distance

behind the car in front of your should be 3 times as far. And you must begin braking 3 times as far

away from the stoplight or corner where you turn.

- ▣ Look well ahead of your vehicle, and anticipate problems.

Watch the road ahead and be alert to hazards. What are other vehicles doing? Is there a stop sign

or traffic light ahead (if so, gradually slow down as you approach it)?

- ▣ Remember that bridges, overpasses, and ramps, which freeze over much more quickly than other

road surfaces do. Watch out for black ice! Just because you don't see ice does not mean it isn't there.

- ▣ Plan your route. Be familiar with the maps/directions to avoid confusion.

- ▣ Check the weather reports and adjust starting time.

- ▣ Let others know your route, how you are coming, and when you'll arrive.

- ▣ Know how to steer in a skid. Despite a popular misconception, the best approach to recovering from

a skid is the *same* for the front and rear-wheel drive vehicles.

If your *rear wheels* start to skid: Turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the front wheels to

go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.

If your *front wheels* skid: Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but *don't* try to steer

immediately. As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it

does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch,

gently.

- ▣ If you have an anti-lock braking system (ABS), keep your foot on the pedal

and pump the brakes more rapidly as your car slows down. Braking has

lo will make the skid worse

## MANSCEN SAFETY OFFICE

